WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A multifunction printer comprising:

a data acquiring device for acquiring original image data and being recognizable as an independent device by a computer to which said data acquiring device is connected; and

a printing machine for printing print image data generated by image processing of said original image data and being recognizable as an independent device by a computer to which said printing machine is connected,

said data acquiring device and said printing device being held in a common housing.

2.   The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein said original image data is RGB-based data, and said print image data is YMC-based data.

3.   The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein said original image data is expressed by multi-value data representing a plurality of tones for each pixel, and said print image data is expressed by multi-value data for each pixel, the number of values of said print image data is less than that of said original image data.

4.   The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein said data acquiring device holds data acquiring device identification   information   with   which   a   computer distinguishes said data acquiring device from any other data acquiring device, and transmits said data acquiring device identification information to said computer in response to a request therefrom , and

wherein said printing device holds printing device identification   information   with   which   a   computer distinguishes said printing device from any other printing device, and transmits said printing device identification information   to   said   computer   in   response   to   a   request

~~therefrom.~~

5. The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

6. The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image.

7. The multifunction printer according to claim 1 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device hold identification information indicating that said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common housing.

8. The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device held in a common housing hold a common serial number used as said identification information.

9. The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device transmit said identification information to a computer in response to a request therefrom.

10. The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

11. The multifunction printer according to claim 7 wherein

said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image.

12. A computer to which a multifunction printer holding a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing, and capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, comprising:

a data acquiring device control section for controlling said data acquiring device and for acquiring original image data from said data acquiring device;

a print image data generating section for acquiring and processing said original image data from said data acquiring device control section, and for generating print image data which said printing device can print; and

a printing device control section for controlling said printing device, then acquiring said print image data from said print image data generating section and transmitting said print image data to said printing device.

13. The computer according to claim 12 wherein said print image data generating section does not manage the number of said and other data acquiring devices, but said data acquiring device control section manages the number of said and other data acquiring devices connected thereto, and

wherein said printing device control section does not manage the number of said and other printing devices, but said print image data generating section manages the number of said and other printing devices connected thereto.

14. The computer according to claim 13 wherein said data acquiring device holds data acquiring device identification information enabling distinction of said data acquiring device from other such data acquiring devices, and when said print image data generating section needs said data acquiring device

identification information, said print image data generating section requests said data acquiring identification information to said data acquiring device control section without specifying said data acquiring device, and

wherein said printing device holds printing device identification information enabling distinction of said printing device from other such printing devices, and when said print image data generating section needs said printing device identification information, said print image data generating section requests said printing device identification information to said printing machine control section while specifying said printing device.

15.   The computer according to claim 12 wherein said print image data generating section converts said original image data made up of RGB-based data into said print image data made up of YMC-based data.

16.   The computer according to claim 12 wherein said print image data generating section converts said original image data expressed by multi-value data indicating a plurality of tones for each pixel into said print image data expressed by multi-value data for each pixel, the number of values of said print image data is less than that of said original image data.

17.   The computer according to claim 12 wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

18.   The computer according to claim 12 wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image.

19.   A computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer holding a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing, said multifunction printer holding identification information indicating that said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, comprising:

a data acquiring device identification information acquiring section that acquires, from said data acquiring device, data acquiring identification information enabling distinction of said data acquiring device from other such data acquiring devices;

a printing machine identification information acquiring section that acquires, from said printing machine, printing device identification information enabling distinction of said printing device from other such printing devices; and

a comparing section that compares said data acquiring device identification information with said printing device identification information to judge whether said both devices are held in a common housing or not.

20.   The computer according to claim 19 further comprising: a first notifying section that gives a notice to a user when said data acquiring device and said printing device are not held in a common housing.

21.   The computer according to claim 19 further comprising: a second notifying section that gives a notice to a user when said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common housing.

22.   The computer according to claim 19 further comprising: a selecting section that enables a user to select said

printing device for printing said image data even when said data acquiring device and said printing device are not held in a common housing.

23.   The computer according to claim 19 wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data, and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium.

24.   The computer according to claim 23 further comprising:

a storage medium loading information acquiring section that acquires, from said storage medium read-out device, storage medium loading information about whether said storage medium has been set or not; and

a third notifying section that judges from said storage medium loading information whether said storage medium has been set or not, and gives a notice to a user when said storage medium has not been set.

25.   The computer according to claim 19 wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image.

26.   A computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer holding a storage medium read/write device for reading image data from a storage medium and writing image data on said storage medium and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, comprising:

a storage medium read/write device control section that controls said storage medium read/write device and acquires original image data from said storage medium read/write device, said storage medium read/write device control section having

~~a dual-use mode permitting reading of image data from said~~ storage medium and writing of image data onto said storage medium and a read-only mode permitting only reading of image data from said storage medium;

a print image data generating section that acquires said original image data from said storage medium read/write device control section, and generates print image data that can be printed by said printing device by executing image processing of said image data; and

a printing device control section that controls said printing device, and acquires said print image data from said print image data generating section and transmits said print image data to said printing device.

27. The computer according to claim 26 further comprising:

a switching section that switches said dual-use mode and said read-only mode in said storage medium read/write device control section.

28. The computer according to claim 27 further comprising:

a storage medium loading information acquiring section that acquires, from said storage medium read/write device, storage medium loading information about whether said storage medium has been set or not; and

a prohibiting section that judges from said storage medium loading information whether said storage medium has been set or not, and prohibits a change between said dual-mode and ~~said read~~-only mode in said switching section when said ~~storage medium has~~ been set.

29. A printing system comprising:

a data acquiring device for acquiring original image data;

a computer that acquires said original image data from said data acquiring device and generates print image data by image processing of said original image; and

a printing device that receives said print image data

from said computer and prints said print image data,

said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device as independent devices,

said data acquiring device and said printing device being held in a common housing.

30. The printing system according to claim 29 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device each hold identification information indicating that they are held in a common housing.

31. The printing system according to claim 30 wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device held in a common housing have a common serial number, and said serial number is used as said identification information.

32. A recording medium that can be read by a computer to which a multifunction printer having a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing image data held in a common housing is connected, said computer recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently, a program stored in said recording medium comprising the steps of:

acquiring original image data from said data acquiring device;

executing image processing of said image data and thereby generating print image data that can be printed by said printing device; and

transmitting said print image data to said printing device.

33. A recording medium that can be read by a computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer having a data acquiring device for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing image data both held in a common housing, said multifunction printer holding

~~identification information indicating that said data~~
acquiring device and said printing device are held in a common
housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data
acquiring device and said printing device as independent
devices, a program stored in said recording medium comprising
the steps of:

acquiring, from said data acquiring device, data
acquiring device identification information enabling
distinction of said data acquiring device from other such
data acquiring devices;

acquiring, from said printing device, printing device
identification information enabling distinction of said
printing device from other such printing devices; and

comparing said data acquiring device identification
information with said printing device identification
~~information, and~~ thereby judging whether both these devices
are held in a common housing or not.